
The Bulletin

*Blissymbolics
Communication
Institute*

September, 1980

Vol. 5, No. 9

Update session succeeds

If you had elementary training some time ago, went home to apply what you learned, made a few mistakes and perhaps some valuable discoveries, it could be time to consider attending one of BCI's new Update Training Sessions.

Update training provides people with

an opportunity to share their experience with Blissymbols and to gain additional knowledge about teaching and using the system.

The first Update Session was held in Toronto in early July. Lynnette Norris, the senior presenter, reports that feed-

back from those who attended the workshop was positive.

In addition to Lynnette, seven resource persons were called upon to offer expertise in various areas. The specialized knowledge of these speakers was of prime importance to the success of the update.

Participants evaluating the workshop claim that it achieved a good balance between theory and practice. Sessions concerning the state of the art were exciting and the practical workshops on symbols proved quite challenging.

These favourable reactions to the first BCI Update Training Session augur well for all those who desire to continue learning about Blissymbolics.

Board seeks research funding

That the board will go out after research dollars was by far one of the most prominent and promising outcomes of July's meeting.

This could mean that individuals might have access to funding for worthwhile research projects.

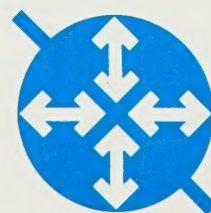
Both Bill Robson and board member, Dave Dineen, agreed that scientific data is necessary to measure and document the changes that may occur when a non-verbal person becomes a symbol user.

Mr. Dineen emphasized this fact by

proposing that planned, long-term research into the effects of Blissymbolics should indeed be carried out. His reason was simple—the credibility of the symbol system may rest on such studies.

In addition to seeking money for research, two board members will join Bill Robson as a long-range planning committee to set specific goals for BCI.

The research grant project will be discussed again at the next Board of Directors meeting and The Bulletin promises to publish an update.



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BCI board gathers in Toronto

Given that punctual business meetings are rare in any case, July 15, 1980 should go on record as an uncommon occasion.

The Annual General Meeting of BCI members and a Board of Directors meeting held at the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre in Toronto, both ran according to well-planned schedules and actually finished on time.

The afternoon of meetings began with a luncheon for the combined gathering of members, staff and the board. This gave people an opportunity to get acquainted and catch up on BCI news.

One major highlight of this event was the new video tape, *Symbol Talking*, produced by Susan Chan, a young Toronto film-maker. Susan arrived at the meeting just in time to see and hear the audience's reaction to her work. The film was well received and is destined to provide BCI with an informative and entertaining promotional aid.

The formal business portion of the meeting consisted of several agenda items including a report from Chairman of the Board, George Wilson. Bill Robson, Chief Executive Officer and Director of BCI presented a summary of the institute's objectives and reviewed some major 1979 achievements.

Two noteworthy gains during the past year included an outstanding rise in the number of inquiries received by the BCI office and a marked increase in communication and teaching aid sales.

While the statistics illustrating past success were encouraging, Bill Robson chose to emphasize future prospects. He stated that "the future for BCI is as much a challenge and in some ways a greater challenge than the eventful past".

Staff and volunteers were not forgotten as Mr. Robson thanked all those who worked long and hard to contribute to the impressive strides taken by BCI in 1979.

Bill Robson summed up his expectations for the future by saying that BCI will retain its leadership role in the field of symbols. He is positive that this will be reflected in an increased variety of programs and services to symbol teachers and users, better utilization of financial and human resources and most of all, "in an increase in the number of symbol users".

The general meeting adjourned promptly at the designated hour. While BCI staff resumed business as usual, the Board of Directors stayed behind to hold a regular board meeting.

GENERAL ENQUIRIES RECEIVED JANUARY - APRIL, 1980

Argentina	2	Malta	1
Austria	1	Mexico	2
Belgium	2	Puerto Rico	1
Brazil	1	Sweden	3
Canada	70	South Africa	1
Chile	1	Trinidad	1
England	7	USA	206
Holland	5	Venezuela	1
Malaysia	1	West Germany	2

This first quarter shows an almost 50% increase over the number of inquiries received in 1979.

The symbol column

Blissymbols for Use, with approximately 1,400 symbols, has opened up new and interesting topics to symbol users. However, there will always be a need to create symbols for specific, individual expression. The combined symbol device is available to meet this need and it may prove useful, at this time, to review its application.

Although the composition of a combined symbol will vary with the developmental and cognitive level of the creator, the following guidelines are recommended for consistency and clarity.

1. Be concise. Use only essential meaning components.
2. Always sequence the parts of a combined symbol.
3. Place the classifier first in the sequence.
4. Modifying symbols follow the classifier.
Exceptions: modifiers which precede the classifier
 - a) group of, much, many
 - b) opposite meaning
 - c) part of
 - d) similar
 - e) minus, without
5. Use only one indicator, appropriate to the total meaning.
Exception: if use of an additional indicator with a component part will clarify the total meaning of the combined symbol, more than one indicator may be used.

e.g. cane



(linear thing+(to) walk)

linear thing for walking

6. A comma may be used to separate component parts in a combined expression. This often helps to identify component meanings which make up the meaning of the total expression.

7. Always enclose a combined symbol between two combine indicators.

To Draw A Combined Symbol

1. Combine indicators are placed a quarter space **above**, and a quarter space **before and after**, the first and last symbols in a combined symbol.
2. Leave a quarter space between each component part in a combined symbol.

e.g. puzzle



Any person who has a combined symbol and is willing to share it with others, should submit it to BCI. Upon request, BCI will offer it as a combined symbol suggestion. Such a combined symbol may also be considered as new standard vocabulary is developed.

Up and coming

An **Alternative Communications Course** will be held in the United Kingdom, November 3-7.

This event gives professionals and administrators who implement and recommend programs an opportunity to become familiar with various speech alternatives and to gain knowledge about assessment and appraisal.

Some systems included in the program are Amerind, Blissymbolics, Cued Speech, Makaton and Paget Gorman.

Accommodation will be provided at Castle Priory College for the weekend commencing October 31. The cost of attending this course includes a residence fee of £52 and a tuition fee of £44.

Members of the International Advisory Committee who are interested in attending should inform Ray Johnson at Castle Priory promptly to advise him of exact accommodation requirements.

Ray Johnson
Castle Priory College
Thames Street
Wallingford, Oxon
England

BCI's **Annual Resource Centre and Affiliates Meeting** will take place in Cardiff, Wales, October 27-31.

Some of the major topics of discussion

will include the restructuring of BCI International and new support services for resource centres and affiliates. The agenda will consist of presentations, seminars and of course some social events.

The chosen label for this event is "The Big Push 1980s—A New Decade". Everyone is invited to attend, to learn and to contribute to the success of the Cardiff meeting.

The cost of room and board and conference materials is \$250.00.

The first **Southeast Non-speech Communication Conference** will be held at the University of Alabama, Birmingham, October 3-4 of this year.

This event, sponsored by the Desemo Project, will include lectures on augmentative communication systems, Blissymbolics, and non-speech assessment and programming. Commercial exhibits will also be featured.

Anyone interested in attending what should be a most interesting conference should contact Pamela Elder at the Desemo Project:

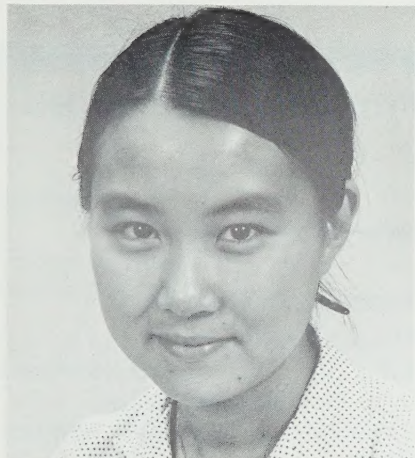
University of Alabama
PO Box 313
University Station
Birmingham, Alabama
35294

MEET



Bill Robson, Chief Executive Officer
Judith Ketcheson, Office Manager
Debbie Egan, Training Co-Ordinator

Elizabeth Thornton, Director of Communication
and Teaching Aids
Diana Powell, Secretary
Margaret Carleton, Order Department/Clerk Typist



Mary Durgy, Enquiries and Loan Materials



Sachi Tamura, Special Projects

Carol Barrett, Public Relations - Editor

Jinny Storr, Symbol Officer

Paula Ashmead, Assistant Symbol Officer

THE BCI STAFF

News from training

USA TRAINING SESSIONS

New York

October 15-17, 1980

Elementary Training Session

Ms. Jane Capria
Association for the Help of Retarded
Children
Box 449, Mount Hope Road
Middletown, New York
10904
914-343-0871

Florida

November 13-15, 1980

Correspondence Course

Sept. 15-Jan. 31, 1981

2-day session
January 9-10, 1981

Elementary Training Session

Sandra Osborn, Director
The Crippled Children Society of
Orange County Florida
The Blissymbolic Resource and
Demonstration Center
1600 Silver Star Road
Orlando, Florida
32804
305-293-5841

Alabama

Correspondence Course

Dec. 15, 1980-March 31, 1981

2-day session
March 13-14, 1981

Elementary Training Session

Pam Elder, Director
Blissymbolics Resource Center
DESEMO Project
University of Alabama in Birmingham
P.O. Box 313
University Station
Birmingham, Alabama
35294
205-934-4871

South Dakota

October 15-17, 1980

Elementary Training Session

Sheela Stuart
Crippled Children's Hospital and School
2501 West Twenty-Sixth Street
Sioux Falls, South Dakota
57105
605-336-1840

INTERNATIONAL TRAINING

September 9-12, 1980

Elementary Training Session

Madame Desaint-Gelinet
C.D.I.
17, rue José Maria de Hérédia
75007 Paris
France

October 1-4, 1980

Elementary Training Session

Switzerland

**ELEMENTARY TRAINING SESSIONS
ARE CONDUCTED ON A REGULAR
BASIS IN SCANDINAVIA AND THE
UNITED KINGDOM. FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

Annagreta Malmstrom-Groth, M.D.,
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Swedish Blissymbolics Resource Centre
Ekhaga hab. avd.
Munkgagsg. 160
582 55 Linköping Sweden

Ena Davies, National Advisor
Blissymbolics Communication
Resource Centre
c/o Institute of Higher Education
Western Avenue
Llandaff, Cardiff, Wales
United Kingdom, CF5 2YB
(0222) 551770

CANADIAN TRAINING

Toronto

September 29-October 1, 1980
October 2-4, 1980

Elementary Training Session
Update Training Session

Elsewhere in Canada

November 25-27, 1980

Elementary Training Session
Lyne Poitras
C.P. Association of Quebec

December 4-6, 1980

Elementary Training Session
Ms. Carol Rusak
Co-ordinator of Workshops & Seminars
Continuing Education Division
Sibley Hall Seminar Centre
Confederation College
Box 398
Thunder Bay, Ontario
P7C 4W1
807-4756382

Elementary training becomes a 3-day event

Squeezing four days into three can be a demanding task under any circumstances. However, to accomplish this with an already jam-packed Elementary Training session requires some very special teaching and organizing skills.

BCI's new three-day Elementary Training program provides 30 hours of carefully planned lectures and reading assignments.

Elementary training was designed for teachers, speech pathologists, therapists and parents who seek knowledge about symbol use. More often than not these people take time from busy schedules and travel varying distances to attend Blissymbol training sessions.

A more compact training program aims to provide maximum learning yet reduce the travel expenses and time required to take part.

Regardless of the time cut-back, trainees receive a full program of instruction. An in-depth study of the Blissymbol system is stressed. Other areas

include vocabulary selection and display organization, assessment and programming considerations, accessing and technology, communicating and communication materials.

BCI staff feel that the new condensed Elementary Training sessions will prove more convenient for participants, and it is hoped that a greater number of individuals will now be able to attend.

The price for the reduced program is also worth noting. The cost of a Toronto Elementary Training session is \$115.00, not including materials. This amount may vary from region to region in accordance with the availability of subsidized funding.

Outline of Three-day Training Format

Pre-reading Assignments

History
Terms to be used
Preparation for drawing, sequencing and constructing Blissymbols

Training Session Lectures

Blissymbolics, the system
Blissymbol alphabet
Special Blissymbols
Combine strategy
Drawing Blissymbols
Sequencing Blissymbols
Instructional and communication materials

A.V. Presentation and Discussion

Vocabulary selection and display organization
System selection, assessment and programming and considerations
Accessing and technology
Communicating

Post-reading Assignments

Blissymbolics, the system
Sequencing Blissymbols
Training session follow-up reading
Examination

Material matters

GOOD NEWS

A second issue of the Blissymbol Stamps has been expanded to include all symbols in Blissymbols for Use.

The stamps are now presented in booklet form and are available in two sizes, 7/8" and 9/16" square. There is a choice of either colour or black on white. These new stamps also offer new, large-size French or English word equivalents for easy reading.

Within the booklets, stamps appear in Blissymbol alphabet order and are arranged on 16 sheets, each containing 108 stamps. The total vocabulary of approximately 1,415 stamps includes 1,378 Blissymbols, numbers (0-9, 10, 100, 1000), and the letters of the alphabet. Blank stamps of each colour are also provided.

Note again, this text is available in French and English.
\$17.00

New How-To Guide

A new 56-page guide to the use of Blissymbol Stamps is now available. This text includes a complete listing of Blissymbol stamps, how to find them in the stamp booklet, and an explanation of their organization according to the Blissymbol alphabet.

Additional features include explanatory notes, suggestions for organizing displays, practical guidelines for applying stamps, references and sample vocabularies.

This guide is available in both French and English.

\$4.00

400 Stamp Supplement

There is now a stamp supplement available for those who already own the 1,000 Blissymbol Stamps. By providing the additional 400 symbols defined in Blissymbols for Use, this supplement eliminates the need for purchasing the complete stamp booklet.

Stamps are printed on a large sheet and are available in two sizes, 7/8" and 9/16" with blanks provided. There is also a choice of either colour or black on white.

\$7.00

Blissymbol Colouring Book

This 14-page colouring book, *I Have A Flower*, was produced by J. Krech. It illustrates the story of a boy who plants a seed and grows a flower in his classroom.

The publication measures 6½" by 5¼".

\$3.95

Teaching And Using Blissymbolics by E.T. McDonald, Ed.D.

This practical introduction to Blissymbolics for instructors of those who lack functional speech is now available.

Teaching and Using Blissymbolics, written by an eminent professional, focuses on the system of Blissymbolics, assessment, program development, implementation and the many ways of accessing symbols.

This book should be noted as a valuable complement to the Handbook and a worthwhile reference for anyone seeking help in the use and teaching of Blissymbolics. Discount to Associate Members.

\$15.00

The Bulletin



A publication for the staff and Associate Members of Blissymbolics Communication Institute.

Editor, Carol Barrett

Send letters, suggestions and news items to:

Editor

Blissymbolics Communication Institute

350 Rumsey Road

Toronto, Ontario

M4G 1R8

Jobs, jobs, jobs

Assistant Symbol Office Co-ordinator, needed to aid the Department Head of BCI's symbol office. Responsibilities include assisting in the development, design and implementation of Blissymbolics.

Responding to the needs of symbol users and professionals is top priority along with safeguarding the integrity of the symbol system.

BCI seeks a creative, detail-minded individual with excellent communication skills. An understanding of the

needs of the communicatively-impaired and experience with Blissymbolics would be definite assets.

Anyone interested in this position should reply with resumé and salary requirements to:

Mrs. D. Gurley

Director of Personnel

Blissymbolics Communication Institute

350 Rumsey Rd.

Toronto, Ontario

M4G 1R8

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